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Press Release



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GOVERNOR DAVIS CONGRATULATES CHILD SUPPORT PROGRAM FOR HELPING FAMILIES/CHILDREN 08/12/2003

Parents, Children and Advocates Celebrate at State Capitol

SACRAMENTO

Governor Gray Davis today applauded the Department of Child Support Services Program (DCSS) for receiving a national award for successful improvements to its program as scores for parents, children and advocates rallied at the state capitol.

The National Child Support Enforcement Association (NCSEA), a national umbrella organization of 65,000 child support professionals, presented California its 2003 Excellence Award for "Most Improved Child Support Program."

"Today we are sending a message on the importance that both parents be involved in their children's lives," Gov. Davis said. "Not only does it help the child financially, but it teaches them how to be responsible parents themselves."

Several local child support agencies and officials under the auspices of DCSS also received NCSEA recognition for outstanding services to California's children.

California children, parents and state and local officials gathered at the State Capitol to celebrate the accomplishments of the program under reforms implemented by the Davis Administration. Gov. Davis created the new department dedicated exclusively to improving child support services statewide.

In addition to the Capitol celebration, all 58 counties are conducting local events aimed at educating the public on how child support promotes the well being of children who live in separated families.

"Research shows that children who have the involvement of both parents do better in school and become more successful adults," said Director Curtis L. Child, Director of the State Department of Child Support Services (DCSS).

Grantland Johnson, Secretary of the Health and Human Services Agency, praised the DCSS for its achievements in establishing California as a national leader in child support services for children and families.

"California is well on its way to reaching its goal of becoming the finest child support program in the nation," said Secretary Johnson.

California's child support achievements over the past three years include:

- Overhauling the system that include a new department committed solely to improving services to children and their parents, including custodial and non-custodial parents;
- Increasing child support collections by more than \$2 billion in each fiscal year since the creation of the new department in 2000.
- Creating a new collections record of \$2.2 billion in 2002-03 and anticipated that in 2003-04 child support collections will reach \$2.4 billion.
- Transitioning child support agencies from local district attorney's offices into local stand-alone entities that report to the state. The transition occurred six months ahead of schedule, saving counties \$13 million annually in administrative costs.
- Reducing the undistributed child support collections to one of the lowest levels in the nation.
- Instituting a customer service improvement program, placing an ombudsman in every local child support agency and establishing a complaint resolution and hearing process to allow parents to resolve issues with the local agencies outside of the court system.
- Completing the most comprehensive research in the nation on the collectibility of child support that eventually allows DCSS to more successfully target its collection efforts.

Earlier this month Gov. Davis proclaimed August as "Child Support Awareness Month."

DCSS today also unveiled its new slogan and logo that will be used by the department and local child support agencies throughout California. The new slogan is "Supporting California's children."

For more information about California's Child Support Services Program and "Child Support Awareness Month" activities by county, log on to:

[California's Child Support Services Programs and Activities](#)

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